



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

REGION IV

611 RYAN PLAZA DRIVE, SUITE 400
ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76011-8064

July 6, 1998

EA 98-356

Otto L. Maynard, President and
Chief Executive Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

SUBJECT: NRC INSPECTION REPORT 50-482/98-05 AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Maynard:

An NRC inspection was conducted April 20-24, 1998, at your Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station reactor facility. Following the inspection, an exit meeting was held to provide the inspection findings to you and other members of your staff. Your staff submitted additional docketed information, dated May 29, 1998, regarding the inspection findings. Subsequently, an inoffice inspection was conducted until June 30, 1998, and a supplemental telephonic exit was held with your staff on that date. The purpose of the inspection was to assess the program you have implemented to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65, "Requirements for Monitoring the Effectiveness of Maintenance at Nuclear Power Plants [the Maintenance Rule]." The enclosed report presents the scope and results of that inspection.

The inspection results revealed that you had developed and implemented a program that generally met the requirements of 10 CFR 50.65. Although the inspectors identified a number of deficiencies during the inspection, the team noted that your corrective actions program had been effective and had identified and initiated corrective actions for many deficiencies in the past 12 months. Following our review of the supplemental information submitted by your staff, we concluded that there were four NRC-identified violations of the Maintenance Rule. The bases for our conclusions are documented in Sections M1.1, M1.3, and M1.6 of the enclosed report.

The first of the violations was the failure to include specific functions in the scope of the Wolf Creek Maintenance Rule program. The second violation dealt with the failure to perform a periodic evaluation as required by 10 CFR 50.65(a)(3). The third and fourth violations involved the failure to appropriately monitor specific structures, systems, and components to demonstrate that preventive maintenance would assure the performance of the in-scope functions. The third and fourth violation specifically concern the failure to identify exceeded performance measures and inappropriate performance measures for monitoring Maintenance Rule functions, respectively. We are concerned about these violations as they represent a potential for unmonitored and, therefore, undetected degradation of structures, systems, and components that may impact facility performance.

The violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation (Notice) and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you

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Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
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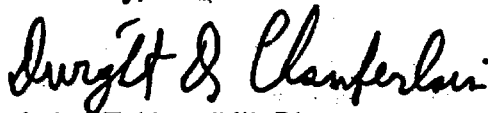
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are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter, its enclosures, and your response will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,


for Arthur T. Howell III, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No.: 50-482
License No.: NPF-42

Enclosures:

1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report
50-482/98-05

cc w/enclosures:

Chief Operating Officer
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

Jay Silberg, Esq.
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037

Supervisor Licensing
Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corp.
P.O. Box 411
Burlington, Kansas 66839

**Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation**

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**Chief Engineer
Utilities Division
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Rd.
Topeka, Kansas 66604-4027**

**Office of the Governor
State of Kansas
Topeka, Kansas 66612**

**Attorney General
Judicial Center
301 S.W. 10th
2nd Floor
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1597**

**County Clerk
Coffey County Courthouse
Burlington, Kansas 66839-1798**

**Vick L. Cooper, Chief
Radiation Control Program
Kansas Department of Health
and Environment
Bureau of Air and Radiation
Forbes Field Building 283
Topeka, Kansas 66620**

**Mr. Frank Moussa
Division of Emergency Preparedness
2800 SW Topeka Blvd
Topeka, Kansas 66611-1287**

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating
Corporation

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E-Mail report to T. Frye (TJF)
E-Mail report to D. Lange (DJL)
E-Mail report to NRR Event Tracking System (IPAS)
E-Mail report to Document Control Desk (DOCDESK)
E-Mail report to Richard Correia (RPC)
E-Mail report to Frank Talbot (FXT)

bcc to DCD (IE01) bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator
DRS Director
DRP Director
Branch Chief (DRP/B)
Project Engineer (DRP/B)
Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)
OE File
Mark Satorius (MS 7H5)

Resident Inspector
DRS Deputy Director
SRI (Callaway, RIV)
DRS-PSB
MIS System
RIV File

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EJFord		DAPowers		WBJohnson		ATHowell III			
06/02/98		06/02/98		06/21/98		06/16/98			

*Previously concurred

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bcc to DCD (IE01) bcc distrib. by RIV:

Regional Administrator

DRS Director

DRP Director

Branch Chief (DRP/B)

Project Engineer (DRP/B)

Branch Chief (DRP/TSS)

OE File

Mark Satorius (MS 7H5)

Resident Inspector

DRS Deputy Director

SRI (Callaway, RIV)

DRS-PSB

MIS System

RIV File

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SOE:NRR*	E	C:MB	E	C:PBB	E	D:DRS			
EJFord		DAPowers		WBJohnson		ATHowell III			
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*Previously concurred

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